

16th April 2019

Ms. Clare Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 14753/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the impact of a lack of funding for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and that the known level of need exceeds the funding available resulting in a failure to meet the long-term needs of a number of persons that require residential services; his plans to address the funding shortfall; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is acutely aware of the need for residential places in Cork and Kerry for people with intellectual disabilities. Unfortunately, the known level of need currently exceeds the funding available. This deficit reflects the growing population of people with disabilities, longer life expectancy and more complex needs presenting, along with the lack of structured investment in residential and home supports over a number of years. This is an area which we have consistently highlighted in the Estimates and budget planning process in recent years. It is clear at this stage that sufficient funding has not been provided to the HSE at National Level to meet the level of needs that exist among people with disabilities for residential care. Information on the numbers who need services has been given to the Department of Health and the Department of Expenditure and Public Reform in recent years.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has received no additional funding for several years to develop additional residential places in a planned and systematic way. In 2018 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare received a financial allocation of €2.2m in respect of emergency cases for 2018. This allocation was used to meet urgent crisis needs for residential care, for additional home supports as an alternative to residential care, or to provide additional supports where people in residential care have increased needs and cannot continue to be supported within that setting with the current level of supports.

Some additional funding is being made available in 2019, however, this figure needs to cover:

- The full year costs of emergency cases which were put in place in 2018 where costs were incurred for less than the full year
- The cost of pay rises to staff
- The cost of additional places for school leaves and those leaving training
- Some (limited) provision of emergency residential places

Unfortunately the level of funding available to Cork Kerry Community Healthcare will not enable us and the service providers with whom we work to meet all of the needs presenting in 2019.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to receive a large volume of applications for funding of supports on an on-going basis. As the level of need presenting exceeds the funding available, every application must be considered in the context of the limited resources available, the large volume of

emergency cases availing of our services and the complexities of the cases being addressed at present

All requests for emergency funding are recorded and managed through a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool, which serves to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The process that follows involves a prioritisation by of the applications for approval based on the funding available and the complexity of the cases presenting, within the resources available.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare established a Residential Placement Committee in April 2017 and this committee has representatives from Cork Kerry Community Healthcare and voluntary organisations. A sub-group of this committee has been established with a primary focus on planning for the future in respect of both residential and respite services. This group is solely focused on reviewing existing services and the level of need in order to use this information to plan locally for the future. While funding is not available at this time to implement this plan, this work will ensure that Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are prepared to respond to any additional funding that becomes available.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ger Reaney
Chief Officer
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare